

**Special House Legislative Commission to Study the Effects and Procedures for the
Reorganization of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Time 2:00 PM

Meeting Notes

(Not intended as official meeting minutes)

Commission Members in Attendance: Representative Deborah Ruggiero, Representative Arthur Handy, Representative Lauren Carson, Topher Hamblett, Jamie Hainsworth, Joe Nicholson Jr., David Baud, Richard Hittinger, Michael McGiveney, Paula Bontempi, Lawrence Taft, Sven Risom, Nancy Letendre

I. Opening Remarks, Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, and Member Introductions:

Lynne Urbani, Director of Policy to House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, welcomed the Commission members and requested confirmation that the members were at the meeting of their own free will. All members provided such confirmation. Ms. Urbani explained to the Commission members the purpose of the commission and called for motions to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Representative Ruggiero was elected Chair and Representative Handy was elected Vice-Chair. The commission members introduced themselves.

II. Background and Purpose of the Commission:

Rep Ruggiero welcomed members to the commission and described the purpose of the commission. CRMC was formed by the general assembly in 1972 as a result of the federal law. Our purpose is to review the coastal management procedures and the scope of the CRMC. It is also for us to listen, assess and possibly recommend reorganization of the council. It is also to identify opportunities to make the CRMC better for RI and all of our residents. This is not a look back at CRMC decisions in the past, especially since some of those decisions are in litigation, this is about the future. The focus will be on how we make this a better run organization.

Rep. Ruggiero announce the next two meeting dates, October 6th at the Seaman's Institute in Newport at 2:00 PM and November 10th at 2:00PM at Jamestown Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM